



**RHODE  
ISLAND**

# **Rhode Island Department of Education**

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Presentation to the Senate Committee on Finance

March 7, 2023

# Agenda

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1. Overview of Agency/Programs
2. FY24 RIDE Budget Overview
  - Staffing/Recruitment
  - Capital Budget
  - Performance Measures
3. COVID-19 Recovery Funds



# Overview of Agency & Programs

**The Rhode Island Department of Education continues to shift from an organization focused on bureaucratic compliance to dynamic, on-the-ground support. In the coming months, RIDE will continue to support school and district leaders with the continued shifts required to accelerate student learning after COVID-19.**

- Continuing Pandemic Recovery
  - Learning Acceleration
- Governor Daniel McKee's 2030 Plan
- RIDE's Five Operational Priorities
  - Completing the implementation of the Right to Read Act & improving literacy outcomes in Grades 3-5
  - Focusing in on mathematics, especially in Grades 9-12
  - Amplifying systems and supports for multilingual learners and differently-abled students
  - Providing resources for mental health & social emotional wellness, both for students and for educators
  - Implementing the newly-passed Secondary Regulations to reimagine the secondary experience



# Article 8 and Article 1

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**These are the proposed statutory changes to the education funding formula.**

## Article 8 Proposed Changes

- Student Success Factor Increase
- Funds to Support Homeless Students
- Funding to school districts losing student to public schools of choice
- Increases MBE participation rate requirement on school construction projects from 10% to 15% consistent with change proposed in Article 3.

## Article 1 Proposed changes

- Appropriation to schools with aid losses compared to 2023 Enacted Budget



# K-12 Funding Formula

The Governor’s recommended Fiscal Year 2024 Budget increases year-over-year K-12 education funding by \$58.1M. The increase is attributable, in part, to the following:

01

**Student success factor from 40% to 42% (\$9.9M)**

Provides additional support to school districts for economically disadvantaged students

02

**Public Schools of Choice Supplemental Transition Fund (\$7.9M)**

Compensates school districts for enrollment losses to charter schools

03

**Categorical funding (\$14.2M)**

Increases multilingual learner categorical by \$7.8M, special education categorical by \$5.1M, and Regional District Transportation by \$1.4M

04

**Students experiencing homelessness (\$2.5M)**

Provides additional support to school districts to serve students experiencing homelessness

05

**Temporary enrollment transitional support (\$8.5M)**

Compensates school districts for all other types of enrollment losses (on a one-time basis)

# Article 11, Section 6: RIDE Lease

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**This section authorizes a five-year lease for the Rhode Island Department of Education.**

- RIDE is currently located at the Shepard Building, located at 259 Westminster Street, Providence.
- Article 11, Section 6 would authorize a five-year lease in a 25,000 – 30,000 square foot facility located in Providence.
- State issued a Request for Information in January 2023, and is currently seeking strategic options for building use.
- State issued a Request for Proposal to find a new space for RIDE. A selection committee is evaluating proposals.



# Proposed New Poverty Measure

The 2022 General Assembly required RIDE to develop a new poverty measure not reliant on nutrition program data. The new measure would be consistent with current poverty status defined as at or below 185% of poverty and be implemented with the 2024 education funding formula.

| Current practice  | Proposed Measure: Use SNAP and TANF direct certifications multiplied by a factor of 1.6.   |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>School lunch forms</li><li>Income verification forms used by schools participating in the community eligibility program</li><li>Schools also use SNAP benefit eligibility which provides automatic eligibility to participate in the school meal program.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Means tested benefit</li><li>Factor is used to offset shortcomings of direct certification data</li><li>Central Falls poverty for this purpose measured differently using the American Community Survey data due to the variance with the direct certification data.</li></ul> |

# Proposed New Poverty Measure

**The new proposed poverty measure draws from research and practice in other states.**

- The 1.6 factor used is suggested by the Federal Government to capture students that currently qualify for reduced lunch and students that may not be eligible for SNAP or TANF services.
- Many states are moving from lunch forms as a measure of poverty and moving toward this type of direct certification.
- Principles that led to direct certification
  - Comparable eligibility requirements
  - Data readily available in real time
  - Clarity of the data; information is clear without additional calculations
  - Data sharing agreements available
  - Schools have familiarity with the data





# FY24 RIDE Budget Overview

This is a high-level overview of the budget with all funding sources.

| Sources of Funds       | FY 2023 Enacted | FY 2023 Revised | FY 2024 Governor | Change to Enacted |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| General Revenue        | \$1,440.7       | \$1,442.3       | \$1,476.7        | \$ 35.9           |
| Federal Aid            | \$ 520.7        | \$ 614.4        | \$ 543.4         | \$ 22.7           |
| Restricted Receipts    | \$ 47.6         | \$ 46.8         | \$ 47.4          | \$ ( 0.2)         |
| Other                  | \$ 9.4          | \$ 9.5          | \$ 5.7           | \$ ( 3.8)         |
| Total<br>\$In millions | \$2,018.4       | \$2,113.0       | \$2,073.2        | \$ 54.6           |

# Funding Formula Components

**Due to the proposed changes to the education funding formula, it may be helpful to see the basic funding formula components and how they interact.**

- Core Instruction per pupil
  - \$11,876 in 2024
  - Based in RI, MA, CT, and NH average expenditures in certain expenditure categories, update annually has grown 42% since formula inception
- Student Success factor
  - Currently 40% of the core instruction per pupil is added to per pupil aid for all student meeting the 185% poverty measure
- State Share Ratio
  - Considers the municipality's ability to support education through a per pupil wealth calculation
- Student Enrollment



# Notable 2024 Budget Changes

Many changes in the FY24 Budget may be attributed to funding formula changes as described in Article 8 and Article 1.

- New funding for homeless students
  - Increases the funding formula by \$2.5M
- Increase student success factor from 40% to 42%
  - Increase the funding formula by \$9.9M
- Public Schools of Choice transition Fund
  - Two-year transition fund (60% and 30% of transferred revenue) per new seat
  - Year 1 cost \$7.9M, estimated \$10M annual cost thereafter
- One time aid to assist school districts with enrollment loss
  - Increases formula aid by \$8.5M, impacts 17 districts and 3 charter schools
  - 13 Districts remain with a less aid proposed in 2024 than in 2023 Enacted
- Special Ed. (\$5.1M) And MLL.(\$7.8) Cat. Aid fully funded
- New measure for student poverty data
  - 2022 Assembly required RIDE to develop a poverty measure that did not rely on school nutrition eligibility forms.



# State Aid to Education; Funding Formula

| \$\$ Change in Education Aid Funding Formula, FY23-FY24 |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Total FY 23 Education Formula Aid*                      | \$1,133,267,077 |
| + Funding Formula Distribution Increase**               | \$ 43,913,454   |
| + Categorical Fund Increase                             | \$ 21,822,740   |
| + Stabilization Funds ***                               | \$ 1,239,508    |
| Total FY 24 Education Formula Aid                       | \$1,200,242,779 |
| \$\$ change from FY 23                                  | \$ 66,975,702   |

\*Includes formula funding for all local education agencies and all state schools, except the RI School for the Deaf.

\*\*Includes the projected amount needed to accommodate anticipated data updates, including the core instruction per pupil, and the state share ratio; updates the poverty measure to DHS direct certification data and includes measures to mitigate the impacts of this change. **Amounts are subject to change with annual spring enrollment updates.**

\*\*\*(\$0.3M.) For Central Falls, \$0.6M. For Davies, \$1.0M for the MET.



# Notable 2024 Budget Changes

**Additional changes in the FY24 budget are based on priority staffing needs to support related initiatives.**

- *Four new positions:* total estimated additional cost including employee benefits \$600,000, plus support funding of \$650,000 for two positions.
  - **Education Specialist** to administer and manage the **All Course Network**, position currently funded with non local funds, additional funds of \$250,000 are also included for non salary aspects of the initiative.
  - **Education Specialist** for **Multilingual Learner Support** to provide statewide assistance to districts in support of the rapidly growing multilingual learner population.
  - **Transformation Specialist** to provide support to RIDE's initiative of transforming the state's persistently **lowest achieving schools and districts**, in accord with the Education Accountability Act of 2019.
  - **Assessment Specialist** to assist with **data analysis** and coordinate **professional development** regarding understanding and interpreting assessment data for the field. \$400,000 is included with the position for professional development services.
- *State Fiscal Recovery Funds:* \$4.0M in FY 2024 provides funds for community organizations to **expand access to out of school education programs**.



# Staffing & Recruitment

**Education as a whole is experiencing a tightening of the labor market. Simultaneously, RIDE continues to have a greater need for positions.**

- RIDE ACES FY23 FTE Cap = 143 FTEs
  - Current filled positions = 141, including 14 time-limited positions
- RIDE ACES FY24 FTE Proposed Cap = 147
  - The proposed cap accounts for the four new positions requested
- Recruitment Challenges
  - Competitive compensation
  - Workforce shortage for specialized positions



# Notable 2024 Budget Changes

## Categorical Aid

| Categorical Aid Type                 | 2023 Enacted | 2024 Governor's Budget | Change from 2023 Enacted |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Career and Technical Education       | \$ 4.5       | \$ 4.5                 | \$ 0                     |
| Early Childhood                      | \$14.9       | \$ 22.9                | \$ 8.0                   |
| High-Cost Special Education          | \$ 4.5       | \$ 9.8                 | \$ 5.1                   |
| Transportation, Non-Public           | \$ 3.5       | \$ 3.5                 | \$ 0                     |
| Transportation, Regional             | \$ 5.8       | \$ 7.2                 | \$ 1.4                   |
| Multilingual Learners                | \$ 5.0       | \$ 12.8                | \$ 7.8                   |
| Public School of Choice, Density Aid | \$ 0.5       | \$ 0                   | \$ ( 0.5)                |
| Total<br>\$ In millions              | \$38.7       | \$68.6                 | \$21.8                   |

# Budget Comparison: all RIDE Departments all Funding Sources

**Note: All state schools received additional state funds, the year over year comparison shows negative funding due to planned federal and capital expenditures**

| Department all funding sources | 2023 Enacted Budget | 2023 Revised Budget | 2024 Governor's Budget | \$ Change      |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| ACES (RIDE operating budget)   | \$ 325,591,279      | \$ 370,814,289      | \$ 323,345,734         | (\$2,245,545)  |
| Davies CTE                     | \$ 29,322,796       | \$ 30,630,960       | \$ 25,459,998          | (\$3,862,798)  |
| RI School for the Deaf         | \$ 9,124,556        | \$ 9,413,854        | \$ 9,662,426           | \$ 537,870     |
| Metropolitan CTE               | \$ 14,715,874       | \$ 12,515,092       | \$ 15,868,602          | \$ 1,152,728   |
| Central Falls                  | \$ 69,806,667       | \$ 58,961,338       | \$ 61,032,015          | (\$8,774,652)  |
| Education Aid                  | \$ 1,300,499, 236   | \$1,361,269,603     | \$1,401,623,443        | \$ 101,124,207 |
| School Housing Aid             | \$ 138,536,507      | \$ 138,536,507      | \$ 103,462,946         | (\$35,073,561) |
| Teachers' Retirement           | \$ 130,855,471      | \$ 130,855,471      | \$ 132,744,129         | \$ 1,888,658   |
| Total                          | \$ 2,018,452, 386   | \$2,112,997,114     | \$2,073,199,293        | \$ 54,746,907  |





# Capital Budget

| Project                         | Total Cost     |  | Start Date  | End Date | Source      |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Davies New Wing                 | \$35.0         |  | FY 2024     | FY 2026  | RICAP       |
| Davies HVAC                     | \$ 2.3         |  | Pre FY 2023 | FY 2028  | RICAP       |
| Davies Health Classrooms        | \$ 6.5         |  | Pre FY 2023 | FY 2028  | RICAP       |
| Davies Asset Protection         | \$ 5.2         |  | Pre FY 2023 | On Going | RICAP       |
| Met Asset Protection            | \$ 7.4         |  | Pre FY 2023 | On Going | RICAP       |
| RISD Asset Protection           | \$ 1.3         |  | Pre FY 2023 | On Going | RICAP       |
| School Construction Bond        | \$500.0        |  | Pre FY 2023 | FY 2028  | Gen. Oblig. |
| <b>Total<br/>\$ In millions</b> | <b>\$557.7</b> |  |             |          |             |



# FY24 Performance Measures

The performance measures in RIDE's FY24 budget represent only a sample of various metrics the agency reports and evaluates to assess outcomes.

| Performance Measure   | Baseline     | 2023 Target | 2024 Target |
|---|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| High School Graduates Earning Diploma Plus                    | 48% (2021)   | 58%         | 63%         |
| State-Funded High-Quality Pre-K Program Enrollment            | 20% (2022)   | 20%         | 24%         |
| Low Income State-Funded High-Quality Pre-K Program Enrollment | 14% (2022)   | 14%         | 18%         |
| Student Chronic Absenteeism Rate                              | 27.6% (2021) | 21%         | 18%         |

# COVID-19 Recovery Funds

## Summary of Major COVID-19 Relief Funds

| Description              | Award Amount | Amount to be Distributed to LEAs | Percent Reimbursed Through February 2023 | Program End Date                    |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Coronavirus Relief Funds | \$ 90.0M.    | \$ 90.0M.                        | 100%                                     | 12/30/21<br>Program period complete |
| ESSER I (CARES)          | \$ 46.3M.    | \$ 46.1M.                        | 100%                                     | 9/30/22<br>Program period complete  |
| ESSER II (CRRSA)         | \$184.8M     | \$166.3M.                        | 77%                                      | 9/30/23 Active                      |
| ESSER III (ARP)          | \$415.0M     | \$373.5M.                        | 17%                                      | 9/30/24 Active                      |
| Total                    | \$736.1M     | \$675.9M.                        | 45%                                      |                                     |



# COVID-19 Recovery Funds

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## General allowable uses of COVID-19 funding

- Coordinating preparedness and response efforts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19;
- Training and professional development on sanitizing and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases;
- Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean
- Purchasing and expanding educational technology, and associated training
- Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental after-school programs;
- Providing mental health services and supports
- Addressing learning loss



# COVID-19 Recovery Funds

**Local Education Agencies have planned for each tranche of ESSER funding based on current context and need.**

- ESSER I focused on responding to the health crisis, including immediate health needs and shifts to online learning
  - LEAs budgeted over \$16M towards *Physical Health & Safety* ([U.S. Department of Education](#))
- ESSER II budgeting began to focus on more long-term recovery based on recommendations from the Learning, Equity, and Accelerated Pathways Task Force (LEAP)
  - RIDE recommended budgeting certain percentages towards Summer Learning (25%) and Acceleration (50%)
  - Approximately 46% budgeted towards personnel costs
- ESSER III budgeting is also focused more on long-term recovery based on LEAP recommendations, and braiding funds with planning from previous ESSER tranches.
  - LEAs had to budget a minimum of 20% towards evidence-based interventions to address the academic, social-emotional, and mental health impacts of the pandemic.
  - Approximately 49% budgeted towards personnel costs



# COVID-19 Recovery Funds

**RIDE has aligned the 10% ESSER reserve with LEAP priorities and focused on creating opportunities to respond to the needs of students and educators.**

- **Summer Programming**
  - \$965,500 funded the enrollment of 3556 students in the state's Summer Academy for Interactive Learning (SAIL) Program in Summer 2020.
  - \$1.8M funded the state's All Course Network (ACN) offering over 270 courses in Summer 2021 and 2022.
- **Pre-K to Kindergarten Transition Programming**
  - \$500,000 allowed RIDE to pilot a transitions program for rising Kindergarteners in Summer 2022. This opportunity reached 850 children in 11 communities throughout the state representing RI's mixed-delivery system.
- **Strengthening Core Instruction with Professional Learning in Mathematics**
  - ~\$2,000,000 allowed RIDE to provide curriculum-specific professional learning over two academic years to nearly 1800 elementary and middle school educators and counting. Additionally, RIDE hosted a mathematics summit that engaged another 76 educators in Summer 2022.



# Other COVID-19 Relief Funds

**State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) are managed by the General Assembly, and RIDE collaborates closely to administer these funds for specific programmatic purposes.**

- **Adult Education Providers**
  - \$2.0M in FY 2023
  - \$3.0M in FY 2024
  - Grants to local adult ed programs for literacy services and civics education
- **Out of School Time Education Providers**
  - \$4.0M in FY 2024
  - Funds for community organizations to expand access to out of school education programs.



# Appendix





# FY23 Performance Measures



| Performance Measure   | Notes   |
|---|---|
| <i>State-Funded High-Quality Pre-K Enrollment</i><br><i>Low Income State-Funded High-Quality Pre-K Enrollment</i>   | Continue with measure for FY24  |
| <i>Advanced Placement Course Participation</i><br><i>Juniors and Seniors Earning Industry-recognized Credentials</i>  | This measure was closed out beginning in FY23   |
| <i>Grade 3 Reading Performance</i><br><i>Grade 8 Math Performance</i><br><i>Grade 8 Science Performance</i><br><i>Grade 10 Reading and Writing Performance</i><br><i>Grade 11 Reading and Writing Performance</i><br><i>Grade 10 Math Performance</i><br><i>Grade 11 Math Performance</i> | Omitted these measures for FY24 based on feedback that data is reported publicly as part of annual Accountability |